

# SPOOK RAISING CHAMPIONSHIP

DR. FUNK CHALLENGES DAVIS ON BEHALF OF MRS. PEPPER.

Davis Replies That He Will Do Anything Mrs. Pepper Can Do Under the Same Conditions—Suggestion That a Ghost Be Engaged to Referee the Setto.

NEW YORK.—I can call spirits from the vasty deep. Hecateus—Why, so can I; or so can any man. But will they come, when you do call for them? GHOST.—Why, I can teach thee to command the Devil.

DR. FUNK.—I can teach thee, too, to shame the Devil. Hecateus.—Tell truth and shame the Devil. If thou have power to raise him, bring him hither. And will he swim, I have power to sham him hence. O, will he swim, tell truth and shame the Devil.

The game of battle has been thrown down and accepted in the big fight between the medium and the skeptic.

Dr. Funk, who has been getting his name into the papers by his extraordinary claim in connection with Mrs. Pepper, sent this letter to THE SUN yesterday.

"To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Mr. W. S. Davis announces that he is an ex-medium, and that he, if given a chance, will duplicate through fake methods all that Mrs. Pepper has done for her medium. This, if sincere, is a move in the right direction.

"At the risk of unpleasant notoriety and endless misapprehensions, I have seemed to me well worth while to try to find out whether fraud can explain all the so-called psychic phenomena, or whether it is true that we possess nearly all of us in rudimentary form, a few in functional state—or any of all these faculties as telepathy, clairvoyance, clairaudience, presence, and beyond all, the ability to communicate with intelligences that are outside of visible bodies, which, if true, might give a greatly needed note of scientific certainty to religion. This problem is regarded as important and important by such leading scientists as Crookes, Wallace, Richet, Lodge, James and others. Why should it not be investigated fully and honestly? It is worth it. My interest in the present agitation is to see the subject so pushed to the front as to compel a far more thorough investigation than has been given by psychologists and other trained scientists."

"As to Mr. Davis's challenge, I will agree to pay all the expenses for a hall in which he may give such a public demonstration on the single condition that he will practically duplicate the tests of last Sunday evening in the presence of a committee of seven, who will be selected by the arrangements and pass judgment on the success or failure of the tests, three of this committee to be selected by Mr. Davis and three by Judge Bailey, the referee, and these six to agree upon the seventh."

"Now that I have completed my series of tests with Mrs. Pepper, will not the press permit me an explanation of her results? Is it worth the thousand and one rumors and guesses that have been spread about a psychic investigator like being a swindler? Is it worth the reputation of a man for sanity to give serious attention to this subject, and yet, if it is ever solved, it must be solved by men who have somewhat of a reputation."

"The following is illustrative. It has been published far and wide in the last few weeks that Mrs. Pepper's church, and from a lawyer friend of mine a wallet filled with gold. Neither was true, nor is the statement that she had determined to give away the gold. I do not remember one such visitor in twenty-five years. I did not, as published, set out to investigate a medium one evening, but I did set out to investigate a man. I do not remember one such visitor in twenty-five years. I did not, as published, set out to investigate a medium one evening, but I did set out to investigate a man."

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he saw her do, but what he thinks he saw her do. He is a good old gentleman, he is perfectly honest, but he is the most incompetent observer of so-called psychic phenomena that I ever met, and I've met a great many in my time.

"Here is Mrs. Pepper's chance. This is the time for her, if she has any occult power, to prove it. Just a fair, even break between us, that is all I ask."

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# CROOKS HEARD BY THE NINE

THEY TELL OF STEALING ON SHARES FOR POLICEMEN.

This Is to Reinforce Jerome's Statement That Pickpockets and Detectives Are Partners in Business—Three Inhabitants of the Tomba Listened To Yesterday.

Three members of the committee of nine went to the Criminal Court Building at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon and slipped into the office of District Attorney Jerome. They were Austen G. Fox, H. DeForest Baldwin and William Church Osborn. With them came T. Ludlow Chrystie, secretary of the Nine.

For two hours and a quarter the police investigators were in Mr. Jerome's office behind locked doors. During that time they had a session with three crooks, including Lefty Boyle, who was brought over from the Tomba for interrogation, and with Special Policeman Reardon of Mr. Jerome's staff. One of Mr. Jerome's stenographers took down everything that was said. Assistant District Attorney Lord also took part in the conference.

Then the representatives of the Nine slipped out a side door, went uptown to the City Club and reported to their fellows of the Nine—none for publication. The Nine had tea sent in while they were discussing the report.

At first Mr. Jerome was averse to talking about his visitors. Then he said: "They came down to get some information in the line of supplementing what I had already told them. This time they got the information first hand. They were greatly interested and entertained."

They had a very interesting time. One of the Nine volunteered the information later that when Mr. Jerome appeared before the committee at the City Club he said that he "could not put his finger on an honest policeman."

Everybody knows that Lefty Boyle has told Mr. Jerome that he had a business arrangement with certain policemen whereby he was to work the farm on shares, that is, steal and divide and be protected. These two crooks are Morris Greenwald and Daniel Cowan, nineteen-year-old boys. They were arrested on Jan. 27 in the home of Hyman Fried, a contractor, of 10 West 14th street, a woman, secured them after they had got into the house with false keys. On Feb. 24 they pleaded guilty and were remanded to the Tomba.

A few nights ago Mr. Jerome made a speech said that there wasn't a place in the city where street cars ran that pickpockets were not working under contract with General Office men or Mr. Jerome. He said that he had two other crooks in the Tomba who have told of similar business arrangements. One of them is said to be an expert pickpocket. The other is said to be a representative of the Nine. The details of their partnership with certain policemen, said to be detectives. They not only told of the proceeds they worked in, but also named the detectives they were working for. In addition they also told what percentage they had to give up.

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# REALTY BROKERS MADE GLAD.

This Year's to Be a Record Breaker, Their President Tells Them.

The real estate brokers had their annual dinner in the Astor Gallery of the Waldorf-Astoria last night and congratulated each other upon the possibilities for future wealth presented in the new rapid transit plans and other enterprises under way for the building up of the city. It was the annual dinner of the Real Estate Board of Brokers. President de Selding in his opening speech said that the future was bright.

"The real estate expert," he said, "is still rubbing his eyes and wondering what the increase of population will be as the result of all schemes we hear about and where this increase will be housed. It is not long since real estate values were being upset by horse car lines. Then it was the location of elevated stations, and now it is the subway, which is going to break us everywhere, that is changing everything."

"When distances have been annihilated the real estate man is at a loss to know where he is at. Barren lands are blossoming into blooming fields. Money that was kept in stocks because people didn't want to sell out at a loss is being put into real estate again because of the rise in the stock market. The year ahead of us should be a record-breaker."

Mr. de Selding said that some scheme should be devised for suppressing the dishonesty in the business.

Whether the plan for licensing brokers should be adopted, he said, "is not for me to say, but I believe that some plan should be adopted to prevent grafting by irresponsible agents."

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